

REMARKS

Preliminary Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and receipt of the priority document. Applicants also thank the Examiner for accepting the drawings.

Status of the Application

Claims 15-20 have been examined, and claims 1-14 have been withdrawn. The Examiner indicates that claims 16-20 recite allowable subject matter. The claims are amended as discussed below, withdrawn claims 1-14 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 21-23 are hereby added. Hence, claims 15-23 are all the claims pending in the application. This application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,044,485 to Dent (hereinafter "Dent").

Claim 15 is amended to recite a limitation similar to the limitations the Examiner found allowable. Specifically, Applicant amends claim 15 to include a receiver which comprises a control unit that outputs to a transmitter a feedback signal requesting down-adjustment of a grade of transmission of said image signal when a transmission error rate is greater than a first reference value and a grade lower than a current resolution grade of the image signal exists. On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that this is allowable subject matter. Thus, Applicant submits that this claim is patentable and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 16-20 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants rewrite claim 16 in independent form and respectfully request withdrawal of the objection. Also, because claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 17, Applicants submit that the objection to claims 17-20 are overcome.

New Claims

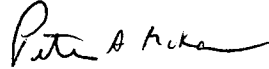
Claims 21-23 have been added. Applicants submit that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 15.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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